equal to 2 per cent of the value of bonds;

(j) In addition, States undertaking reforms should also be assisted through APDP grants and discretionary allocation of Power;

(k) This scheme should enter into force only after one-half of the States that have an annual billing of over Rs. 500 crore per annum from CPSUs give their consent, and should be effective in respect of the States that give such consent; and

(1) The States that withhold their consent beyond 60 days after this scheme enters into force should be denied any share in the discretionary allocation of 15 per cent from the Power stations of CPSUs as well as any assistance under APDP. If the overdues of such States exceeded to Rs. 50 crores in respect of any CPSU, they should also attract reduction in power and coal supplies, as applicable to the States participating in this scheme.

Following the submission of the Report of the Expert Group a high level Empowered Group consisting of Finance Minister, Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission, Minister of Power and Chief Ministers of some States met on 26.6.2001 and 6.7.2001. The Empowered Group endorsed the recommendations of the Expert Group with the following modifications:—

(i) Waiver of surcharge would now be 60% instead of 50% as recommended by the Group; and

(ii) The incentives for achieving the reform based milestones should be increased to 6% in the first year and 5% in the second year.

Recently, Minister of Power has written to Chief Minister of States and UTs urging them to initiate necessary steps for implementation of the scheme at the earliest.

Seizure Under Narcotics Control Bureau

1025. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Narcotics Control Bureau receives report on drug seizure regularly from all States; and

(b) if so, the total seizure made in the country during the last two years and the number of persons arrested for drug trafficking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total seizures in 1999 and 2000 of Opium, Morphine, Ganja, Hashish, Cocaine, Methaqualon and Ephedrine, LSD, as reported by various Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, as on 30th June 2001, were 46751 kgs. and 110581 kgs. respectively. The total number of persons arrested in 1999 and 2000 for drug trafficking as reported by various Drug law Enforcement Agencies, as on 30th June 2001, were 13490 and 15065 respectively.

Investigation by SEBI against companies

1026. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) when did SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) start investigations against BPL, Videocon and Sterlite regarding price manipulation in the scrips;

(b) when was the investigation completed;

(c) when and what was the final action taken;

(d) whether Department of Disinvestment were informed of the action taken; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) SEBI has intimated that it initiated enquiries into the alleged price manipulations in the share prices of M/s BPL, Videocon and Sterlite in April/May, 1998 and formal investigations were undertaken in June, 1998. The investigations were completed in three stages. In the first stage, which was completed in October, 1998, it was brought out that a set of brokers and sub-brokers acting on behalf of a common set of clients who were acting as a front for Harshad Mehta cornered large chunk of shares of these companies. This cornering led to price manipulation. Pursuant to these investigations, 18 brokers were suspended for periods ranging from one to three years. Punishment